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BEFORE THE  
Federal Communications Commission  
1919 M STREET NW - ROOM 222  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20554  
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RECEIVED  
MAR 16 1998  
In re  
FCC MAIL ROOM

JAMES J. McCLUSKEY, INDIVIDUAL.  
1132 EASTWOOD DRIVE,  
MOUNT PLEASANT, MI 48858

RM-9208

## “Microbroadcasting”

TO: MR. WILLIAM CATON  
ACTING SECRETARY

March 12, 1998

## COMMENTS SUPPORTING PETITION FOR RULEMAKING

DEAR MR. CATON:

Now comes James J. McCluskey, Ph.D., an individual who wishes to express his support of petition for proposed rulemaking RM-9208, hereafter referred to as “microbroadcasting.”

At present there are a large number of illegal or “pirate” broadcasting stations operating without a license and in defiance of the Commission’s rules. Their claim is that the airwaves belong to the public and that they are serving their local audiences “in the public interest, convenience and necessity” as stated in the Communications Act of 1934.

Nearly two decades ago the Commission formerly licensed FM stations as Class “D” operations: stations with ten watts. Despite the overcrowding of the FM spectrum, there still is a need for locally-originated radio. Many of the small class “A” stations that were formerly “mom & pop” operations serving their communities with locally produced and originated programming

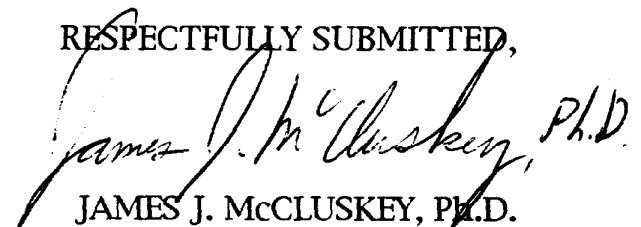
have ceased, or their operations have been purchased by corporations with large holdings and little interest of originating local programs to benefit local listeners, such as local severe weather information, local and community news, and high school sports. Economics have forced small stations to abandon local program origination in favor of satellite programming or music on hard drive. Costs of paying a staff have escalated to the point where badly needed local services such as local news and sports and community service programming have suffered, been cut back, or eliminated totally.

If the Commission were to establish the policy of permitting stations to be licensed at one (1) watt or less with a maximum antenna height of 50 feet, local broadcasters wishing to serve their immediate communities would provide a service to the area citizenry by using available "holes" in the spectrum. These stations should fall under the same restrictions as translators and boosters in that they should not be protected from interference from full-power stations which are already licensed.

Establishment of "microbroadcasting" in the United States would reestablish a local voice in small communities, give small broadcasting companies an opportunity to provide local services, and would afford "pirate" broadcasters an opportunity to legally license and operate their stations on a non-commercial basis. Expedited processing of such applications would eliminate the excuse that it takes too long to get a construction permit, and at the one-watt level costs to construct and operate such a station would be minimal. At present applicants for new non-commercial educational FM construction permits are having to wait anywhere from two to ten years for the processing and possible grant of a construction permit.

I am in support of RM-9208 and urge the Commission to create rulemaking which will establish this form of service to the citizens of the United States.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,

 P.H.D.

JAMES J. MCCLUSKEY, P.H.D.

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